



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
UNIT 29058
APO AE 09081

AEAAG

JUN 20 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USAREUR Retiree Council Minutes

1. The minutes of the USAREUR Retiree Council meeting on 7 May 2003 have been reviewed and approved.
2. The Point of contact for this memorandum is the USAREUR Retirement Services Officer at DSN 379-6080 or email: usareur-rso@hq.1perscom.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JON E. FINKE
COL, U.S. Army
Theater Adjutant General

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EA ASG/BSB
EA USAREUR ASG/BSB RSO
EA USAREUR Retiree Council Member



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AEAAG-URC

2 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, United States Army, Europe, and Seventh Army, ATTN: AEACG, Unit 29351, APO AE 09014

SUBJECT: Minutes of the USAREUR Retiree Council Meeting

1. The 87th meeting of the USAREUR Retiree Council convened in the USAREUR DCofS, G-1 Conference Room, Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, at 0905 hours on 7 May 2003.

2. The following persons were present:

a. Voting Members:

COL (Ret) Alan B. Phillips	Vice President
CW3 (Ret) Sandra K. Simpson	Secretary
COL (Ret) Steven V. Boylan	Member
LTC (Ret) Sheldon Dick	Member
LTC (Ret) Stephen Klein	Member
CW4 (Ret) Robert L. Gambert	Member
CW3 (Ret) Mack C. West	Member
SGM (Ret) Donald Norris	Member
ISG (Ret) Donald Gwinn	Member
SFC (Ret) Randall Blackwell	Member

b. Nonvoting Members:

MAJ Michael Lynch	DCofS, G1 Representative
CPT John Scalia	Acting AG Representative
Mr. Gerald Owens	Acting USAREUR RSO

c. Visitors:

COL (P) Russell L. Frutiger	Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, USAREUR
CMSGT Bobby Roberts	President, USAFE Retiree Council

3. Opening Remarks.

- a. In the absence of the President, the Vice President convened the meeting, and:
 - 1) Welcomed LTC Klein and 1SG Gwinn to the Council and asked them to introduce themselves.
 - 2) Congratulated CW3 West on his new job with the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, USAREUR.
 - b. Council reviewed and approved proposed agenda without change.
4. Approval of Minutes. Council reviewed published minutes of the 19 February 2003 meeting. Minutes were forwarded to Council members electronically and by hard copy for review prior to Council meeting. Council identified no substantive changes.
 5. President's Report. No report due to the absence of President.
 6. DCoS, G1 Report. MAJ Lynch reported:
 - a. Operations in Hungary, Israel, Romania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Georgia, Turkey and Iraq and the impact of these operations on overall USAREUR operations.
 - b. The role of the National Guard and Army Reserves will become even more critical in future Balkan operations.
 - c. The G1 anticipates that there will continue to be significant changes in the composition and stationing of USAREUR forces as transformation process continues. Local retiree councils and associations can play an essential role in alerting retirees to coming changes in USAREUR and in helping them plan for these changes.
 - d. MAJ Lynch announced this was his last Council meeting as he is being reassigned to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Council expressed its appreciation for his service to Council.
 7. Adjutant General Report presented by Mr. Owens.
 - a. USAREUR Retiree Actions Implementation Plan: Mr. Owens reported:
 - (1) Coordinate with USAREUR Retiree Council (Priority 1): [Use the Council for coordinating actions affecting the retirees, their family members and annuitants; Reinforce within the staff the use of the Council in this role.] No changes. Council continues to see this as one of the major missions of the URC.

(2) Update USAREUR Regulation 608-25, Retirement Services Program (Priority 1): [Publish an update to USAREUR Regulation 608-25, dated 31 October 1991.] COL Mentell and Mr. Snow will finalize the USAREUR Regulation at a meeting scheduled for 14 May at 1st PERSCOM and a follow on meeting in June with USAREUR and Installation Management Agency.

(3) HQDA DCSPER Letter "Support for Retired Community" (Priority 1): [Endorse to ASG and BSB commander the annual HQDA letter "Support for the Retired Community."] Letter from DA G1 has been received and 1st PERSCOM will publish the endorsement shortly. Council suggested the endorsement be addressed to the ASG and BSB commanders rather than to retirees, as was the case last year.

(4) USAREUR Retirement Services Web Site (Priority 1): [Update and maintain a USAREUR/1st PERSCOM Retirement Services Web Page.] No changes reported. Web page will be maintained as is until the new RSO is on board. Council believes this should remain an open item, to report significant changes to the web site between Council meetings.

(5) USAREUR Retiree Bulletin (Priority 2): [Continue to publish a semiannual USAREUR Retiree Bulletin targeted to the retiree/annuitant population in the USAREUR geographical area of responsibility.] The next bulletin will be released during the first week of July 2003. Council suggested that retirees be permitted to select receipt of the bulletin either electronically or in hard copy. Electronic receipt could result in savings in manpower and postage.

Council recommended the following topics be considered for inclusion in the next bulletin: (1) ICE—the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, (2) Legal Assistance available to Retirees, (3) IACS (Installation Access Control System)—schedule for implementation, impact on retirees, (4) Voting Assistance, (5) TRICARE Plus, (6) Useful web sites (VA, SSA, DFAS, etc), and (7) Article on Well-Being (LTC Dick to provide input).

(6) Tri-Service Coordination Meeting (Priority 2): [Support and participate in the Semi-Annual Meetings of the Tri-Service Coordinating Meeting of Military Retiree Councils in Europe.] J-1, USEUCOM expressed interest in retiree affairs among services. COL Mentell is coordinating with his Air Force and Navy counterparts and will suggest a proposed meeting date to USEUCOM. Meeting will include active duty staff officers (Mr. Snow and his Air Force and Navy counterparts) supporting retirees as well as the president of each component's council.

(7) USAREUR Guidance to Casualty Assistance Officers on Death Certificates: (Priority 2): DFAS requires a cause of death to be listed on the death certificate or a statement that homicide is not involved before survivor benefits can be issued. CPT Scalia and Mr. Owens will review the adequacy of current guidance to survivors and advise the Council what, if any, further action needs to be taken.

(8) Publish Retiree/Annuitant Address/Mailing List (Priority 2): [Provide periodically to USAREUR RSOs a list of retirees and annuitants in their areas of responsibility.] Using an early version of the Retiree Address File, Council undertook a study to determine the feasibility of breaking out retiree addresses (APO numbers and German postal codes) by BSBs. Council reported its progress and success in earlier meetings. At its last meeting, Council offered to renew its study and provide a new breakout based on the most current version of the retiree address file, if 1st PERSCOM could, or would make use of that listing. Council renewed its offer at this meeting. (See paragraph 11 below, Progress Report, APO/PLZ by BSB.)

(9) Local Retiree Council (LRC) Presidents/Retirement Service Officers (RSO) Standardized Email Accounts. (Priority 3): [Provide guidance to promote the creation of generic email address for RSOs and LRC presidents.] No changes reported. Council restated its request for generic email addresses for RSOs and LRC presidents. Many RSOs have generic addresses but most LRC Presidents do not. At the last meeting, Council identified some inconsistencies with the 1st PERSCOM action (where the form LRC-Pres@<domain> might produce the same address for two different LRC presidents.) 1st PERSCOM is still working the issue to solve that problem where there is more than one LRC President in a given domain.

(10) Local Retiree Council (LRC) Minutes/Appointment (Priority 3): [Maintain current LRC minutes and appointment documents IAW UR 608-25. Not all LRCs appear to be complying with USAREUR Regulation 608-25, which requires LRC appointment documents and minutes to be provided to the AG.] No changes reported. Council recommended that 1st PERSCOM present status of data on file for all LRCs (both ASG and BSB level) at the next meeting.

b. USAREUR 2002 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) After-Action Report: CPT Scalia offered to provide a copy of the AAR to Council President, separately.

c. USAREUR FY 2003 Retiree Appreciation Day Planning: Current planning is for Retiree Appreciation Day to be held 20 September 2003. Representatives from VA, DFAS, DA Retirement Services, and Federal Benefits Unit will be available. Medical and dental clinic services will be available. Council was invited to assist at IPRs and other related planning and coordination meetings. CW3 West will represent Council.

d. Status of Recruitment of Retirement Services Officer: Selection has been made and individual should be on board by mid-July. The person selected has good computer skills and appears to be highly qualified in all areas.

8. USAFE Report: CMSgt Robert reported he will participate in Chief of Staff, Air Force, Council meeting at Randolph Air Force Base in May. The USAFE Retiree Council submitted

three issues for consideration: 1) Concurrent receipt, 2) Dental insurance overseas and 3) postal restrictions. He will continue to work with COL Mentell on Tri-Service Coordination Meeting.

9. Special Visitor: COL (P) Russell L. Frutiger, Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

a. Expressed appreciation for retirees' actions and support of the active duty population especially during the past three months.

b. Committed his support to provide relief from the 16-ounce mail limitation.

c. Expressed willingness to work on any retiree issues and will always receive calls.

d. Supported the concept that Council should be under the oversight of DCofS, G1.

10. Special Reports.

a. Reports of the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council (LTC Dick): LTC Dick:

(1) Provided background on USAREUR involvement in CSA Council and background on how CSA Council is structured and operates.

(2) Noted that all issues submitted by USAREUR were supported by CSA Council, or were explicitly included in the report to CSA:

(a) Compensation: Further the concept of equity between military retirees and other federal retirees by supporting the concurrent receipt of Department of Defense retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation.

(b) Medical Care (No Forced Choice): Support on-going efforts to enhance cooperation between Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs health care systems that preserve or improve health care benefits for all beneficiary groups, including military retirees, without forcing them to make an irrevocable choice between the two systems.

(c) Direct Deposit of Annuitant Payments to Foreign Banks: Urge DFAS expeditiously to implement a direct deposit system for surviving spouses residing in foreign countries to have their annuity checks deposited in foreign banks in the same manner as Social Security recipients have enjoyed for some time.

(d) Dental Insurance for OCONUS Retirees: Expand the Retiree Dental Insurance Program to permit beneficiaries residing outside of CONUS to enroll and receive care overseas.

(e) Military Postal Support for Retirees Overseas (16-Ounce Postal Limit): Support efforts to raise the DOD-imposed weight limits.

(f) OCONUS Receipt of Army Echoes: Renew efforts to identify problems with receipt of official mailings by retirees especially, but not limited to, those with foreign mailing addresses. Continue to support with sufficient resources the educational efforts necessary to ensure retirees receive timely information about programs such as TRICARE for Life, separation incentives, SBP, and bonuses. Target audiences should not only include those who have already retired and those who are about to retire, but also those who are making military career decisions.

(g) Troops to Teachers Program Overseas: Urge expansion to DODDS schools overseas of the program that provides incentives to encourage former service members to pursue careers in education upon retirement.

(3) Reminded the AG representative that AG should request ASG/BSB commanders to recommend issues for USAREUR's submission the 2004 CSA Council, by early September 2003.

b. Well-Being (LTC Dick): LTC Dick reminded Council members that 26th ASG is one of five lab sites for this program. In addition to the lab site, USAREUR created a well-being council at headquarters level, chaired by COL Stevens from DCofS, G1. LTC Dick participates in both councils' meetings. The 26th ASG Well-Being Council meets bi-monthly and includes key unit commanders (most of whom attend personally) and staff members. LTC Dick shared with Council the retiree-related issues that were passed back to the well-being program in the States as well as through command channels. ASG council most recently reviewed standards for measuring well-being, and retirees were given the opportunity to comment on, and recommend changes to those standards. LTC Dick will work with DA well-being office to see if they can process retiree survey that Council is currently preparing.

11. Progress Reports.

a. APO/PLZ by BSB (LTC Dick): Explained the background and aim of the project to identify retirees and annuitants within in each BSB. LTC Dick must schedule a meeting with representatives of Theater Engineer to coordinate potential sources of retiree/annuitant addresses. 1st PERSCOM's response is still awaited: (Will 1st PERSCOM make use of an address list broken out by BSB, and should Council repeat its efforts with a more current address list?)

b. Retiree Mini-Survey (COL Boylan): He incorporated feedback from Council members into current product that was approved with minor changes. COL Boylan and LTC Dick will incorporate these minor changes into final version. Goal is to produce completed survey that LTC Dick can provide to well-being project officer to administer.

c. Retiree Council Liaison Matrix and Individual Liaison Report (COL Boylan): [Although Council recognizes that its members do not directly "represent" the communities in which they may reside, the matrix identifies leaders with whom Council members should maintain liaison regarding retiree services and issues.] COL Boylan presented individual liaison assignments by council member and explained to new Council members the liaison concept and how data are recorded. He requested Council members identify Installation Volunteer Coordinators (BSB/ASG) and reminded Council members to indicate manner/medium of their contacts (in the field under date on the matrix). He modified the matrices for CW4 Gambert and CW3 West to include their contacts with local associations and local councils respectively.

12. Liaison Discussion.

- a. Medical/Dental Access (All): Despite current operations, retirees are still being seen.
- b. Update on Local Councils (CW3 West): Mr. West contacted local presidents via email and will continue to track. He agreed to provide a more comprehensive report at the next meeting.
- c. Update on Local Retiree Associations (CW4 Gambert): Mr. Gambert reported problems contacting associations in Belgium and Wiesbaden. Council members are asked to verify addresses and names for associations in their areas. Council recommended CW4 Gambert query ASG/BSB adjutants to identify retiree associations that are approved private organizations in their areas. He agreed to provide a comprehensive report at the next meeting.
- d. Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) (All): Retirees are being invited to participate in most communities. Well-being program may subsume AFAP.
- e. Unofficial Retiree Web Page (LTC Dick): LTC Dick will continue to maintain the informal USAREUR Retirees web-page, for information that is not, or cannot be posted on the 1st PERSCOM official page. He agreed to look into posting links to non-governmental military agencies/organizations in an AKO "collaboration" folder.

13. Council Administration.

- a. Existing Member Vacancies: None
- b. Projected Member Vacancies: SGM Norris: 30 Sep 03, and MSG Baker: 30 Jun 04.
- c. Unprojected Member Vacancies: MSG Baker submitted his resignation from the Council for personal reasons. Council recommends to the AG that nominations be requested from 22nd ASG.

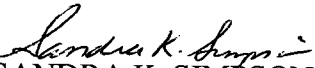
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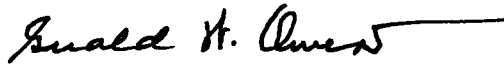
SUBJECT: Minutes of the USAREUR Retiree Council Meeting

d. Projected Officer Vacancies: President: 30 Jun 04 and Vice President: 30 Jun 04. No action required at this time.

e. Unprojected Officer Vacancies: None

14. Selection of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment. The Council agreed to hold its next meeting on 6 August 2003. The meeting was adjourned at 1625 hours.


SANDRA K. SIMPSON
CW3, Retired
Secretary


GERALD W. OWENS
Acting USAREUR Retirement
Services Officer